

VILLAGE OF BIRON & TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS BOARDS JOINT MEETING June 30, 2008

Meeting Place: Town of Grand Rapids Municipal Building, 2410 48th Street South

Present: Chairman Don Bohn, Supervisors Arne Nystrom, Jeanne Fehrman, Edward Hellner and Bill Clendenning, Clerk Judy McLellan. Village of Biron President Jon Evenson, Biron Trustees: Tammy Steward, June Siegler, Jan Gaber, Dan Muleski, Wayne Lambert and Margaret Billman, Clerk Debra Eichsteadt and 45 Biron/Grand Rapids residents and/or interested parties.

Absent:

Excused: Treasurer Kris Ginter

Notices of the meeting were legally posted at The Store in Kellner, the Grand Rapids Garage and the Grand Rapids Municipal Building, and published in the Daily Tribune.

The June 30, 2008 Special Board meeting held jointly with the Town of Grand Rapids and the Village of Biron was called to order by Chairman Don Bohn at 6:05 p.m. at the Town of Grand Rapids Municipal Building.

Christine Cramer from Ruekert Mielke was in attendance to present to the boards a draft of the report from the shared services study. Ms. Cramer gave an overview of what had been done to compile the report. This was per the contract that was entered into by the two municipalities.

Members of the audience had some questions and concerns as to what it would mean to tax rates if the two municipalities would merge. Chairman Bohn stated that this meeting was not a public hearing and that the boards are not looking at merging the two municipalities at this time. The purpose of the study, at this time, is to see if there are areas of service that the municipalities could work together on what could positively affect the costs of services provided by the two municipalities. President Evenson stated that in the future if the two municipalities chose to combine any of the services there would be a public hearing in which everyone would be allowed to speak.

Ms. Cramer had sent a 66 page document to the municipalities; this had been distributed to all board members. Ms. Cramer discussed the findings in the following areas of the document:

- Sanitary Sewer and Water
- Law Enforcement and Municipal Court
- Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service
- Public Works
- Building Inspection
- Financial Conditions

The study showed that there are areas of service in the two municipalities that could benefit both municipalities by working together and other areas that would not benefit both enough to combine the work or service. Ms. Cramer stated that the current wastewater treatment contract that the Village of Biron has with the City of Wisconsin Rapids would not allow them to extend sanitary sewer outside of their boundaries. The water service is not part of this contract and would be able to be extended. Other areas such as law enforcement and municipal court would be at a cost to the Village of Biron but the cost would be somewhat offset by revenue from the municipal court. The cost could possibly be offset by something such as the Village doing some snowplowing for the Town. This would benefit the Town with lower labor costs for plowing and the roads being plowed sooner for the residents.

Chairman Bohn said he thought that with the completion of the Phase I study, he felt that the boards should further investigate the sharing of services by breaking down into joint committees. President Evenson agreed.

President Evenson stated that at the next board meetings there should be board members assigned to work on joint committees for this purpose. This was agreed by all.

Chairman Bohn told the residents that the document put together by Reukert-Mielke would be available at both Municipal Buildings for anyone to view. It can also be purchased under the current policy for copying of public records. A resident asked if it could be put on the websites. The clerks of both municipalities agreed to put the document on the web pages.

Motion (Nystrom/Hellner) to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:48 p.m.

Minutes subject to board approval.

Respectfully submitted and approved
this _____ day of _____, 2008

Judy McLellan
Town Clerk